AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 5-7, 11-12 and 22-23 are amended. Claims 13-21 and 24 were canceled. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently amended) A method for securely communicating financial information, comprising:

receiving at a repository computing device encoding scheme data that defines a field value of a financial data field used in a field delimited communication protocol to have a coded meaning different from an ordinary coded meaning of the field value according to the field delimited communication protocol;

receiving at [[a]] the repository computing device a message communicated according to [[a]] the field delimited communication protocol; , the message comprising a financial data field and a field value corresponding to the financial data field, said computing repository device having been specifically programmed to facilitate financial transactions and receive and store information concerning a coded meaning for the message that is defined to be different than the the field delimited protocol meaning; and

interpreting at the repository computing device the field value of the financial data field in said message according to the coded meaning defined by the encoding scheme data; and,

conducting a financial transaction at the repository computing device using the interpreted field value of the financial data field in said message using information stored in the repository computing device in conducting a financial transaction.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the field delimited communication protocol is the Financial Information Exchange (FIX) Protocol, or a protocol derived therefrom.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the message communicates a number of shares ordered or offered.

4.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the financial data field is a FIX tag 38 entry.

5.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the coded meaning of the field value in the message according to the encoding scheme data represents a number of shares ~~of a financial transaction to which the message pertains~~ that is different than [[the]] the number of shares ~~the message would represent under~~ according to the field delimited communication protocol.

6.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the coded meaning of the field value of the financial data field in the message according to the encoding scheme data represents ~~corresponds to~~ an Indication of Interest (IOI) for a number of shares.

7.   (Currently amended) A method for securely communicating financial information ~~using a computing device specifically programmed to facilitate financial transactions~~, comprising:

        using a computing device to define encoding scheme data that defines a field value of a financial data field used in a field delimited communication protocol to have a coded meaning different from an ordinary coded meaning of the field value according to the field delimited communication protocol;

        ~~using the computing device to define a coded meaning for a message communicated in a field delimited communication protocol pursuant to which the message comprises a financial data field and a field value corresponding to the financial data field, wherein the coded meaning is different from the the field delimited communication protocol meaning~~; and

using the computing device to transmit ~~said coded meaning~~ the encoding scheme data over ~~an electronic~~ a computer network to one or more ~~counterparty~~ recipient computing devices, thereby causing the one or more recipient computing devices that receive a message communicated according to the field delimited communication protocol to interpret the field value of the financial data field in the message according to the coded meaning defined by the encoding scheme data ~~specifically programmed to facilitate financial transactions to facilitate financial transactions with the one or more counterparty computing devices to facilitate communicating financial transactions using the coded meaning~~.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the field delimited communication protocol is the Financial Information Exchange (FIX) Protocol, or a protocol derived therefrom.

9.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the message represents a number of shares ordered or offered.

10.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the financial data field is a FIX tag 38 entry.

11.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the coded meaning of the field value in the message according to the encoding scheme data represents ~~corresponds to~~ a number of shares ~~of a financial transaction to which the message pertains~~ that is different than the number of shares according to the field delimited communication protocol.

12.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein <u>the coded meaning of the</u> <u>field value of the financial data field in </u>the message <u>according to the encoding scheme</u> <u>data represents</u> ~~corresponds to~~ an Indication of Interest (IOI) for a number of shares.

13. through 21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended)   A repository computing device specifically programmed ~~for securely communicating financial information concerning~~ <u>to facilitate </u>financial transactions, comprising:

  <u>means for receiving encoding scheme data defining a field value of a financial</u> <u>data field used in a field delimited communication protocol to have a coded meaning</u> <u>different from an ordinary coded meaning of the field value according to the field</u> <u>delimited communication protocol;</u>

  ~~a receiver~~ <u>means</u> for receiving over ~~an electronic~~ <u>a</u> computer network a message communicated [[in]] <u>according to </u>a field delimited communication protocol ~~pursuant to~~ ~~which the message comprises a financial data field and a field value corresponding to the~~ ~~financial data field, wherein the message is coded to have a coded meaning different than~~ ~~the field delimited communication protocol meaning;~~

  ~~a database that stores information concerning the coded meaning; and~~

  ~~an interpreter~~ <u>means </u>for interpreting <u>the field value of the financial data field in</u> the message according to the coded meaning <u>defined by the encoding scheme data;</u>

  <u>means for conducting a financial transaction using the interpreted field value of</u> <u>the financial data field in the message.</u>

23. (Currently amended) A computing device for securely communicating financial information ~~containing a set of computer instructions that when executed cause the computing device to perform functions~~ comprising:

means for defining encoding scheme data that defines a field value of a financial data field used in a field delimited communication protocol to have a coded meaning different from an ordinary coded meaning of the field value according to the field delimited communication protocol;

~~receiving instructions for encoding a message in a field delimited communication protocol pursuant to which the message comprises a financial data field and a field value corresponding to the field of financial data, wherein said encoded message is intended to have a coded meaning different from the field delimited protocol meaning; and~~

means for transmitting the encoding scheme data over a computer network to one or more recipient computing devices, thereby causing the one or more recipient computing devices that receive a message communicated according to the field delimited communication protocol to interpret the field value of the financial data field in the message according to the coded meaning defined by the encoding scheme data

~~transmitting instructions communicating said coded meaning over an electronic computer network to a repository computing device that stores the coded meaning; and~~

~~transmitting instructions communicating said coded meaning over an electronic computer network to one or more trading computing devices to facilitate trading with the one or more trading computing devices using the coded meaning.~~

24.   (Canceled)